## REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19, and 20 are rejected, and claims 8 and 18 are objected to.

Without prejudice, and without acknowledging agreement with or acquiescence to the rejections, Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 9, 11, 19, and 20. Support for the claim changes can be found throughout the as-filed application, at, for example, page 18, lines 1-18, and page 24, starting at line 20 through page 25, line 9. See also, FIG. 5B.

## Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 15-17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,332,196 to Kawasaki et al. ("Kawasaki"). As amended, each of independent claims 1, 9, 11, 19, and 20 recite that prior to the execution of a task, it is determined whether or not processing of the task is possible only with access to the cache. An advantage of this is that power supplied to external memory can be stopped prior to and throughout the execution of the task which can reduce total power consumption from external memory (as-filed application, page 6, line 21 through page 7,

line 6). Another advantage of this is that processing time is saved by accessing fast

cache memory instead lower speed external memory (as-filed application, page 7, lines

7-11).

In contrast, Kawasaki discloses that the preread operation continues until the

buffer memory (211) is full. (See Kawasaki, column 13, lines 20-25). Kawasaki also

discloses that the buffer control section in the HDC (21) detects if the buffer memory

(211) has empty space, and, if so, sends an associated detection signal as an interrupt

signal (204) to the CPU (20). (See column 13, starting at line 49).

Therefore, in Kawasaki, the CPU can only determine that the buffer memory

(211) has empty space when receiving the associated detection signal as an interrupt

signal (204) from the HDC (21) **after** a read command request task is processed. This is

clearly distinguishable from Applicants' amended claims 1, 9, 11, 19, and 20, which

recite determining, before the execution of a task, whether or not processing of the task is

possible only with access to the cache. Because Kawasaki does not teach or suggest at

least this feature of amended claims 1, 9, 11, 19, and 20, all claims are patentable. The

remaining rejected claims are dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 10, 12-13, and 15-17, and they

depend either directly or indirectly from amended claims 1, 9, and 11.

## Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Dependent claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kawasaki

in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,022 to Ramsey et al. ("Ramsey"). As discussed above,

Kawasaki does not teach or suggest at least determining, prior to the execution of a task,

whether or not processing of the task is possible only with access to the cache. Ramsey

does not cure this defect. Therefore, Kawasaki and Ramsey, either alone or in

combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter of dependent claim 4 or
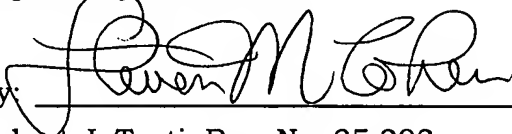
dependent claim 14.

## Claim Objections

Dependent claims 8 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected

base claim. Applicants submit that the objection to claims 8 and 18 have been

addressed by overcoming the rejection to independent base claims 1 and 11,

respectively.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for

allowance and should be allowed in due course.   Applicants submit that no extension

petition or fees are due to have this Response to Final Action entered and considered.

However, if for any reason an extension petition is required and/or a fee is required to

have this response entered and considered, please consider this a conditional petition for

the necessary extension and/or conditional authorization to charge Deposit Account No.

04-1105 for any required fee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: <u>January 16, 2007</u>

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